## X BIOGRAPHICAL AND EXPLANATORY NOTE

who had always been the embodiment of health, strength and an abounding and radiant life, was fatally burned in a tragic accident, which could not have occurred had not her mind been pre-occupied with thoughts of Clifford. She died in Montreal, May the 20th, twenty-two days after the death of her son in France.

No son can read these letters without finding in them a call to nobility of character and heroism of spirit; and no mother can read them without realizing that such letters could be written only to a mother who represented the highest type of patriotic and Christian womanhood.

The letters, other than those addressed to his mother, are of two classes. There are letters which, though addressed to other members of the family, were intended equally for her, and a number of letters of a different character addressed to his brother George. The latter are inserted in order that a more complete picture may be given of his experiences on the battlefield than he wished his mother to see.

To make certain allusions intelligible to readers outside of the circle of the family and intimate friends the following information is given: Professor Wells had a family by his first wife, of which Emma, Frank and Arthur